

Appl. No. 09/446,550
Atty. Docket No. CM-1519Q
Amdt Dated September 30, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 11, 2005

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Absorbent article comprising:

an absorbent core defining a core region comprising a core backsheet material;

a chassis region surrounding said core region comprising a chassis backsheet material;

whereby at least the core backsheet material comprises a laminate;

said laminate comprising at least one polymeric layer comprising a vapour or gas permeable film material, and further comprising a fibrous layer positioned towards the outer side of the article during its intended use,

~~characterized in that said at least one polymeric layer is a unitary layer extending both into the core backsheet material and the chassis backsheet material,~~

~~and whereby wherein~~ the core backsheet material and the chassis backsheet material ~~which comprises said unitary layer~~ are each breathable and exhibit different degrees of breathability such that MVTR value of the core backsheet material is lower than of the chassis backsheet material, as measured by calcium-chloride adsorbing moisture through each of said materials under an outside relative humidity of about 75 % at a temperature of about 40 °C, ~~wherein said polymeric layer has a basis weight of greater than about 25 g/m² and comprises a polymeric matrix and particulate filler material embedded in said polymeric matrix and wherein said breathability is provided by cracks formed around said particulate filler material, wherein at least a portion of said cracks being is formed by passing said laminate using an activation process whereby said laminate is passed through at least one roll pair, said roll pair comprising engaging ridges and grooves which provides apply a multiplicity of corrugations to at least a portion of said laminate.~~

2. (Previously Presented) An absorbent material according to claim 1, wherein the polymeric layer is wider than the fibrous layer.

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3. (Previously Presented) Absorbent article according to claim 1 further characterised in that in the core region the MVTR is at least 500 g/24hr/m².
4. (Original) Absorbent article according to claim 3 further characterised in that in the core region the MVTR is at least 1500 g/24hr/m².
5. (Previously Presented) Absorbent article according to claim 1 further characterised in that the MVTR values of the backsheet of the chassis region surrounding the core region are at least 20% higher than the MVTR values of the backsheet in the core region.
6. (Previously Presented) Absorbent article according to claim 1 further characterised in that the MVTR values of the backsheet in the chassis region surrounding the core region are at least 500 g/24hr/m² higher than the MVTR values of the backsheet in the core region.
7. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article according to claim 4, whereby the filler material is calcium carbonate.
8. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article according to claim 1, whereby said polymeric layer in the chassis region has a basis weight of less than 50 gsm.
9. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article according to claim 1, whereby said laminate layer has a basis weight of less than 70 gsm where it comprises said polymeric layer and said fibrous layer.
10. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article according to claim 1, whereby said fibrous layer is a non-woven web.
11. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article according to claim 1, whereby the polymeric layer and the fibrous layer are combined by heat or melt bonding.
12. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article according to claim 1, whereby the polymeric layer and the fibrous layer are combined by extrusion coating.
13. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article according to claim 1, whereby the polymeric layer and the fibrous layer are combined by adhesive.

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14. (Currently Amended) ~~Absorbent~~ An absorbent article according to claim 1, whereby the article is a baby diaper or an adult incontinence article.
15. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) ~~Absorbent~~ an absorbent article according to claim 1, whereby the article is a baby diaper or an adult incontinence article.
16. (Withdrawn) A process for inducing zoned vapour or gas permeability into a laminate for being used as a backsheet in a product according to any of the preceding claims, comprising the steps of

providing a polymeric film comprising particulate filler embedded in the polymeric matrix;

providing a fibrous web which has equal width or is narrower than the film in cross-machine direction;

combining the film and the web to form a laminate;

stretching the laminated and the non-laminated film zones by feeding the film and laminate zones between a pair of opposed pressure applicators comprising three-dimensional surfaces which are complementary to one another; and

subjecting the portions of said web located between said opposed pressure applicators to incremental cross dimensional elongation by causing said opposed threedimensional surfaces of said pressure applicators mesh with one another, whereby said laminated and non-laminated film zones are at least partially permanently deformed and different vapour gas permeability is induced in various zones thereof.
17. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 16 whereby the fibrous web is narrower than the polymeric film in CD direction.
18. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 17, further comprising the step of heat treating the web after having subjected the web to said incremental CID elongation step.

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19. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 16, whereby the intermeshing between the two pressure applicator rolls is essentially constant throughout the width of the laminated and nonlaminated zones.
20. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 16, whereby the intermeshing between the two pressure applicators is different throughout various zones.
21. (New) An absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein said at least one polymeric layer is a unitary layer extending both into the core backsheet material and the chassis backsheet material.
22. (New) An absorbent article according to claim 21, wherein said chassis backsheet material comprises said unitary layer.
23. (New) An absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein said at least one polymeric layer has a basis weight of greater than about 25 g/m².
24. (New) An absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein said at least one polymeric layer comprises a polymeric matrix and particulate filler material embedded in said polymeric matrix.
25. (New) An absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said cracks are formed using an activation process whereby said laminate is passed through at least one roll pair, said roll pair comprising engaging ridges and grooves which provides a multiplicity of corrugations to at least a portion of said laminate.